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Cigarette Smoking-Related Mortality

Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States. Each year, more than 400,000 Americans die from cigarette smoking. In fact, one in every five deaths in the United States is smoking related. Every year, smoking kills more than 276,000 men and 142,000 women.¹

• Between 1960 and 1990, deaths from lung cancer among women have increased by more than 400%—exceeding breast cancer deaths in the mid-1980s.² The American Cancer Society estimated that in 1994, 64,300 women died from lung cancer and 44,300 died from breast cancer.³

• Men who smoke increase their risk of death from lung cancer by more than 22 times and from bronchitis and emphysema by nearly 10 times. Women who smoke increase their risk of dying from lung cancer by nearly 12 times and the risk of dying from bronchitis and emphysema by more than 10 times. Smoking triples the risk of dying from heart disease among middle-aged men and women.¹

• Every year in the United States, premature deaths from smoking rob more than five million years from the potential lifespan of those who have died.¹

• Annually, exposure to secondhand smoke (or environmental tobacco smoke) causes an estimated 3,000 deaths from lung cancer among American adults.⁴ Scientific studies also link secondhand smoke with heart disease.

Disease	Men	Women	Overall
Cancers			
Lung	81,179	35,741	116,920
Lung from ETS	1,055	1,945	3,000
Other	21,659	9,743	31,402
Total	103,893	47,429	151,322
Cardiovascular Diseases			
Hypertension	3,233	2,151	5,450
Heart Disease	88,644	45,591	134,235
Stroke	14,978	8,303	23,281
Other	11,682	5,172	16,854
Total	118,603	61,117	179,820
Respiratory Diseases			
Pneumonia	11,292	7,881	19,173

Pneumonia	11,292	7,881	19,173
Bronchitis/ Emphysema	9,234	5,541	14,865
Chronic Airway Obstruction	30,385	18,579	48,982
Other	787	668	1,455
Total	51,788	32,689	84,475
Diseases Among Infants	1,006	705	1,711
Burn Deaths	863	499	1,362
All Causes	276,153	142,537	418,690

References

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3. American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures — 1996. Atlanta (GA): American Cancer Society, 1996.
4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders. Washington (DC): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Health and Environmental Assessment, Office of Research and Development. EPA/600/6-90/006F. December 1992.

Office on Smoking and Health

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